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Solid Waste Special Service District News Release

Recycling Center Reduction in Services

Changes for Operating Hours and Cessation of Certain Commodity Recycling.

Solid Waste District, 20 June 2018 –The Solid Waste Special Service District #1 has been operating the Recycling Center in largely the same way for the past eight years. During that time the volume of material processed has increased dramatically, prices paid for those commodities have drastically declined, shipping costs have increased while availability of shippers has decreased, and local labor availability has decreased. The net effect has been that providing recycling now costs significantly more than it has in the past, and the District can no longer continue to offer the same level of recycling as a free service. The District staff and board have been reviewing the Recycling Center operations over the past year to determine how to provide a sustainable level of recycling. In evaluating the costs and benefits of recycling, the District has used Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reductions as a metric for assessing the value of recycling individual commodities, and a cost per unit recycled/unit of GHG reduced ratio as a key measure of the District's efficiency in delivering ecological benefit. Based on the analysis the following changes must be made to maintain sustainability.

The first change will be decreased operating hours for the Recycling Center. The Recycling Center will close by 12:30 pm on Saturdays, and the Center will close one day during the work week to allow time to process the backlog of material. The operating changes will occur beginning 1 July 2018, and specific hours/days will be announced in advance via multiple channels.

The second major change for the Recycling Center is ceasing to accept certain items, immediately. Plastics #1 (PET) clamshells, #2 oil, soap, and similar items, and all #3 –through 7 will no longer be accepted at the drop point. For the next four weeks, a dumpster will be on site to place these materials in for disposal at the landfill. Plastics # 1 water bottles and plastics #2 milk jugs will continue to be accepted. Analysis for GHG savings for plastics 3 -7 and #2 colored determined a very low savings of 0.07 metric tonnes GHG per ton of #3–7 recycled, and 0.25 metric tonnes for plastic #2 colored. In addition, the District would have to pay \$50 per ton for the plastics #3–7 to recycle in addition to processing and transportation costs. Plastic #2 colored only pays \$10 per ton which does not pay for the \$25 per ton transportation cost, much less the processing costs.

Of the various paper items, only clean, sorted office paper, and newspaper will be. Mixed paper will no longer be accepted. The value of \$10 per ton does not cover transportation costs, much less the processing costs. In addition, the mixed paper is difficult to store and process, especially with the windy conditions we have been facing the past several months. Only commercially generated newsprint will be accepted. The GHG savings for newsprint was determined to be 2.28 metric tonnes per ton of newsprint, if it is not contaminated with mixed paper. The value received is \$45 per ton which pays for the \$25 per ton transportation cost and a portion of the processing costs.

Glass no longer has to be separated into colors as the District will continue to collect the glass to use at the Moab Landfill. One benefit of using the glass is the decrease in soil loss from high. The GHG per ton of glass diverted is 0.52 metric tonnes, as opposed to the 0.28 metric tonnes if sent to Salt Lake for recycling.

Corrugated cardboard, aluminum cans, and steel cans will continue to be accepted at the Center. In addition, the District will continue to host the e-waste turn -in every second Saturday at the

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Recycling Center building from 9 am to noon. Charges are \$ 0.30 per pound for electronic waste (televisions, computers, cell phones and related accessories) and \$0.50 foot for residential generated fluorescent bulbs. Clean yard waste (plant material) is accepted at the Moab Landfill at regular rate for use in the composting project

The District began charging for commercially generated recyclable materials delivered to the Center in 2017, but has become more diligent in working with commercial generators coming on site. In addition, residents with large quantities (one cubic yard or more) of material are also subject to the delivery charge of \$4 per cubic yard of material.

The District is continuing to evaluate options for improving recycling operations, which will be implemented over the coming months. One of the areas being evaluated by the District is the sustainability of source separated (our current operations); or transitioning to a single- stream system – sending mixed materials out of the area for sorting and sale by a third party. Both systems will require payment by generators, meaning residents and businesses will need to pay for recycling services.

Due to the increased demand for quality product as well as a backlog of poorer quality material domestically, the prices paid for many commodities has plummeted to unprecedented lows with the expectation of depressed prices continuing for three to five years. The future of recycling will see improved quality as generators improve their material. However, for the immediate future several things need must change to provide recycling for the District's service area.

In the past six to nine months, the District has also seen an increase in contamination at the drop off center. Food items left in jars, bottles, and cans has been increasing in frequency and quantity. Also some members of the community are dumping their bagged household garbage over the District fence after hours as well as not properly sorting materials resulting in materials sent to market being down graded in payment – or rejected resulting in additional transportation costs as well as disposal costs away from the area. These are also considerations taken into account for the difficult choices the District has had to make.

For further information, contact the Solid Waste District: at 435-259-3867, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 to 4:30.